sensitize the international community on the need for global ation to counter the scourge of terrorism.

(c) Yes, Sir. India and the U.K. have jointly announced **the** launch of the Indo-British Round Table. This would be a high level non-governmental group comprising of eminent personalities from both countries. The exact dates for the launch of the Round Table, an event that will take place in India, are being finalised.

Government's policy Regarding Pakistan

807. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed its policy of not having talks with the military regime of Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the revised policy; and

(c) what steps have since been taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH : (a) to (c) Government continue to be of the view that a process of dialogue with Pakistan necessarily requires the cessation of cross border terrorism and the abandonment of hostile propaganda by Pakistan as essential ingredients in the creation of a suitable environment.

Pakistan's Reaction to Indian demands regarding plane Hijacking

808. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was Pakistan Government's reaction to Indian demand for declaring Pakistan as a terrorist State in the light of the hijack drama of IC-814 by Pakistan Militants on last Christmas eve; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government in the light thereof, not only to bring the hijackers to justice but also to remove the misgivings about India being a soft target?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFIARS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and '(b) The Government of Pakistan

pursues the sponsorship of terrorism as matter of slate policy against India. Government have brought this to the attention of the international community, as also the role played by Pakistan in the hijacking of Indian Airline flight IC 814. The hijacking incident has highlighted to the international community Pakistan's continued state sponsorship of terrorism against India. There is now a greater appreciation of this in the international community and it is being reflected in statements by official spokesmen of various governments and in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

Government have also raised the matter of the hijacking with the Government of Pakistan and have provided evidence to them of the involvement of their nationals in the hijacking. Government have reminded the Government of Pakistan that as a signatory to several international conventions, it has an international obligation to take the hijackers into custody and to extradite them to India. The Government of Pakistan in its response has reiterated its general position that it would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on its territory or the territory of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed offences related to the hijacking. As they have at the same time rejected our demarche Pakistan's general commitment has to be assessed accordingly.

Government continues to take all steps necessary to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Info-tech Facilities in the Country

809. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's plan to enhance modern info-tech facilities throughout the country;

(b) whether Government would consider to improve the situation in North-Eastern States which are lagging behind in this aspect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?